

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 21-23 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim 1 has been amended to delete "and for example, a plate" and "and, for example, rolling heat" and new dependent claims 21-23 have been added directed to these features. In addition, claim 1 has been further amended to recite positive process steps.

Claims 2-9 have been amended to replace "characterized in that" with "wherein". The amendments are directed to form only.

Furthermore, claims 10-20 have been canceled without prejudice and the right to file a divisional directed to the canceled claims is respectfully reserved.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-9 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection.

I. Rejection of Claims 10-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 10-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP 10-324952.

Without acquiescing the merits of the rejection, claims 10-20 have been canceled. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is moot and withdrawal is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-9 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-9 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite.

The rejection with respect to claim 16 is moot in view of the cancellation of claim 16.

With respect to claim 1, as noted above, the claim has been amended to delete "and for example, a plate" and "and, for example, rolling heat". Additionally, claim 1 has been amended

to recite positive steps.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection has been overcome, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

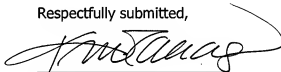
III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-9 and 21-22 is respectfully requested.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Keiko K. Takagi
Registration No. 47,121

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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